WASHINGTON, Jan. 26, 1874.

PETITIONS PRESENTED. The CHAIR laid before the Senate a petition of the Importers and Grocers' Board of Trade of New York, suggesting various amendments to the customs laws. Referred to the Committee on Finance. Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, (rep.) of N. J., presented a petition from Dr. David Maury, Horace Capron and

other American citizens residing in Japan, praying the United States to remit the balance of the Japanese indemnity fund, to be used as an educational fund. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. Mr. CONKLING, (rep.) of N. Y., presented a petition

of Seth Green for certain moneys due him under the treaty between the United States and Venezuela. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. Mr. MORRILL, (rep.) of Me., presented resolutions

of the Portland (Me.) Board of Trade asking for a modification of the Bankrupt law, which was laid Mr. Boreman, (rep.) of W. Va., presented a peti-

tion from citizens of his State in regard to the bridge across the Ohio River at Steubenville being in bad condition and costructing navigation. Reserred to the Committee on Transportation Routes. PENSIONS FOR MEXICAN VETERANS.

Mr. Logan, (rep.) of Ill., introduced a bill granting pensions to the survivors of the war of 1846-47-48 with Mexico. Referred to the Committee on REPORTS OF COMMITTEES,

Mr. Bogy, (dem.) of Mo., from the Committee on Public Lands, reported favorably on the House bill to confirm certain land titles in the State of Mis-

Mr. EDMUNDS, (rep.) of Vt., from the Judiciary Committee, reported further amendments to the

Committee, reported further amendments to the Bankrupt law. Ordered to be printed and laid on the table.

Mr. Anthony, (rep.) of R. I., from the Printing Committee, reported uniavorably on the motion to print the petition making charges against the government in the District of Columbia. He said the memorial made various charges against public officers, but no proof to sustain them had been submitted. It had not been the custom of the Senate to print memorials, and he saw no reason why an exception should be made in this case.

Mr. Thuraian, (dem.) of Ohio, said that at the proper time he would submit to the Senate a proposition to appoint a committee to investigate,

proper time he would submit to the Senate a proposition to appoint a committee to investigate, as the petitioners asked, and would present their

as the petitioner's asked, and would present their proof to sustain the charges.

The committee were discharged from further consideration of the motion to print, and the memorial was laid on the table.

Mr. Morrill, (rep.) of Vt. introduced a resolution instructing the Committee on the Contingent Expenses of the Senate to consider the expediency of excluding from the stationery room of the Senate all articles except paper, pens, envelopes, ink, pencils and muchage.

Mr. Morrill said the charge of extravagance in the matter of stationery jurnished Senators and

Mr. Morkult said the charge of extravagance in the matter of stationery jurnished senators had been spread throughout the land, and when he found that charge endorsed by such a respectable paper as the Boston Advertiser he thought it was time to take some notice of it. Every Senator knew these charges of irand were untrue. The stationery and news, apers received by senators came out of the allowance of \$125 per annum to each Senator ior that purpose. He read from the Advertiser that gold toothpicks, weeding envelopes, card cases, &c., had been iurnished to Senators, and said he supposed that Senators could get what they pleased out of their allowance, but could in no case exceed the sum of \$125, fixed by statute. Again, it was not taken into consideration that the entire Senate wing of the Capitol, office of the Sergeant-at-Arms, Secretary and engrossing elerks were supplied from the stationery room. The whole quantity had been lumped together and divided by the number of Senators, the amount thus ascertained being put forth as the quantity received by each Senator. For instance, it had been inquired what Senators did with eighty-two pounds of sponge, when it was well known that this sponge was used for cleaning the floors and marble steps around the Capitol. It had been intracer charged that Senators were furnished with car itckets. All knew how untrue that was. He thought it best to crush this fruitful source of scandal, and have the stationery room supplied only with necessary articles.

Mr. Morkull, of Mane, said he had never received any of these fancy goods, and he did not

Mr. MORRILL, of Maine, said he had never re Mr. Moreill, of Maine, said and he did not propose to give up his regular allowance of stationery on account of laise charges.

Mr. Morrill, of Vermont, thought it best to have

ery on account of laise charges.

Mr. Morrill, of Vermont, thought it best to have the stationery room so conducted that there would be no room for these charges.

Mr. Morrill, of Maine, said his triend from Vermont, by his argument, was giving force to the theory that this state of things did exist.

Mr. Howe, (rep.) of Wis., said it would be impossible to have the stationery room or any other room about the Capitol so conducted that it would not be lied about. Would the Senator from Vermont guarantee that the stationery room, even it conducted as he proposed, would not be lied about. The following the conducted as he proposed, would not be lied about. Would not be lied about that the stationery room, even it conducted as he proposed, would not be lied about. The Hamlin, (rep.) of Me., referred to the fact that each Senator was allowed \$125 per annum, by law, for stationery and newspapers, but a Senator could decline those articles and take the money if he desired to. He had never done so, but if he chose to do so it would be nobody's business.

The resolution was agreed to.

CONDUCT OF DEBATE.

Mr. MORRILL, of Vermont, submitted a resolution instructing the Committee on Rules to inquire into the expediency of reporting an additional

instructing the Committee on Rules to inquire into the expediency of reporting an additional rule, declaring that it should not be in order for any Senator to be interrupted while speaking, except for the correction of an erroneous statement of lact or when called to, order. Referred to the Committee on Rules.

any Senator to be interrupted while Speaking, except for the correction of an erroneous statement of fact or when called to, order. Referred to the Committee on Rules.

Mr. Buckingham, (rep.) of Conn., introduced a bill to secure to the Episcopal Mission Board certain Indian lands in Minnesota. Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. Mitchell, (rep.) of Oregon, introduced a bill to create an additional land district in Oregon. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

PACIFIC RAHEMOAD REPORTS.

Mr. HITCHCOCK, (rep.) of Neb., introduced a resolution directing the Secretary of the Interior to Jurnist the Senate with copies of the reports of the government directors of the Union Pacific Rahimod for the years of 1872 and 1873. The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. Bayard, (dem.) of Del., presented a petition from the Wimington Board of Trade asking for the improvement of the harbor of Wimington, Del. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

POREIGN COINAGE HILL PASSED.

The House bill granting authority for coinage to be executed at the mints of the United States for Areign countries was taken up and passed.

An Office Abolish the office of First Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

Amendments to the Bankfurtory Bill.

The additional amendments recommended by the Judiciary Committee to the Bankfurtory bill.

The additional amendments recommended by the Judiciary Committee to the Bankfurtory bill relate mostly to matters of detail involved in the amendments already reported. The following, however, are new and important:

First—An amendment providing that in cases of voluntary bankruptcy no discharge shall be equal to thirty-three per centum of the claims proved against his estate, upon which he shall be liable as principal debtor, without the assent of his creditors in number and value as prescribed by the existing law. This repeals the provision which now requires fitty per centum of such assets.

which now requires fifty per centum of such assets.

Second—An amendment providing that in computing the number of creditors who shall join in a petition to have a debtor adjudged bankrupt, creditors whose respective debts do not exceed \$250 shall not be reckoned as part of the requisite proportion of one-lourth of all the creditors. But if there be no creditors whose debts exceed the said sum of \$250, or if the requisite number of creditors holding debts exceeding \$250 fail to sign the petition, the creditors having debts of a less amount shall be reckoned for the purposes aloresaid.

Mr. Logan's bill provides that a pension of \$8 per month shall be given to each honorably discharged garviving officer and senjusted man, including militia volunteers of the military and navaiservice, who served saxty days in the war with Mexico, and also to the surviving unmarried widows of such officers and soldiers.

Bills were introduced as follows:

By Mr. Stewart, (rep.) of Newada—To provide for the incorporation and regulation of railroad companies in the Ferritories of the United States, being the General Incorporation bill that was reported in May, 1872, from the Senata Committee.

CONGRESS.

On Railroads, and subsequently amended and reported by the Senate Committee on Public Lands last year. Referred to the Committee on Railroads. Also by Mr. Stawart-A bill relating to public lands in Nevada. It proposes to accept the proposition of the Legislature of Nevada to relinquish the right of the State to the sixteenth and thirty-sixtin sections, under the School Land act, provided the United States grant to Nevada, it lied thereof, 1,000,000 acres of public lands, to be hereafter selected, for school purposes. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

By Mr. Sargent, (rep.) of Cal.—To forfeit to the United States the lands granted but not patented to the Placerville and Sacramento Valley Railroad Company, the grant having expired by limitation. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

PINCHBACK'S SEAT.

The morning hour having expired Mr. Morton, of Indiana, was recognized by the Chair.

Mr. Morron moved that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the resolution in regard to seating Mr. Pinchback as Sepattor from Louisiana.

Mr. Strevenson, (dem.) of Ky. raised the question of order that the was entitled to the floor to address the Senate on that subject. He did not see how no could be deprived of the floor now.

The Chair overruled the point of order on the ground that the Senate did not adjourn while the Louisiana resolution while the Louisiana resolution where the Louisiana resolution while the Louisiana

from Kentucky (Mr. McCreery) would now be entitled to the floor.

Mr. Hamlin, of Maine, offered an amendment to the motion which the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Morton) a lew days ago gave notice he would make, to the effect that Mr. P. B. Pinchback be allowed to take his seat in the Senate, upon taking the necessary oath, and that the committee on Privileges and Elections subsequently consider the grounds upon which his seat is contested and report to the Senate.

The Chair ruled the motion out of order, the motion of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Morton) being to recommit, and therefore was entitled to precedence.

precedence.

Mr. Morton said he had not yet formally entered
his motion, but had only given notice that he

The Chart rates the mostine out of order, the most being to recomming, and therefore was entitled by Potential the property of the property of the property of the motion, but had only given notice that the motion of the motion, but had only given notice that the motion of the motio

seating Mr. Kennard on the Supreme Bench of the State so untriedly, which a lexis derinded him of the old Indian running the gauntiet, with a lick and a kick at every step. He argued that the Supreme Court of L-Dimana had expressed itself invorable to the Kellogg government before it was called upon to decide, as it was true, as James F. Casey, the Collector of the Fort, informed the President, and this lact showed that the Kellogg government was recognized by the Court before it was a government. The Senator from Indiana attempted to support his case by argument. He (Mr. McCreery) would attempt to overthrow it by lacts. If he fell in this cause it would be for the sacred rights of a downtroaden and oppressed people, who would remember with gratitude the leeble efforts of himself in their behalf. He contended that the Fitteenth amendment to the constitution had been violated in the Louisana election. He did not desire to invoke support nor to provoke opposition, but there was a sentiment of demoralization in the popular mind now. Confidence had given place them the state of the contended than the Fitteenth amendment to the constitution had been violated in the Louisana election. He did not desire to invoke support nor to provoke opposition, but there was a sentiment of demoralization in the popular mind now. Confidence had given place them that the state of the United States rising up above party prejudices. Here was an opportunity presented of meeting the views of those inclined to right. The examination and cross-examination of witnesses before the committee has laid the lacts before the Senate. To give some deal of the searching character of that investigation he would mention that the chalifman asked the Hon. Samuel Armstead in he could read and write, and that question was in view of the fact that Mr. Armstead had received a considerable number of the view of the searching character only the content of the searching character only the mind of the searching character on the flow of the fitting the could rea

the same time the redemption of the notes is commenced under this act. By Mr. SHANKS, (dem.) of Ind.—Providing a labor Also repealing the act granting lands for railroad purposes in the Indian Perritory, and establishing a United States court in the Indian country.

Also for a survey by the army and navy engineers of a sup canal from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River, near Cairo, Iii.

Jy Mr. Burchard, (rep.) of III.—To provide for the importation of sugar beet seed free of duty.

By Mr. Burchard, (dem.) of Mo.—To incorporate the Eastern and Western Transportation Company.

By Mr. Field, of Michigan—To repeal the stamp tax on bank checks, druggists' prescriptions and lucifer matches.

By Mr. Mills, (dem.) of Texas—For the removal of all troops in the southern States to the Western country, as protection against the Indians.

Also to repeal all laws authorizing banking ussociations.

Re Mr. Luttered, (dem.) of Cal.—To prohibit Also repealing the act granting lands for railroad

Also to repeal all laws authorizing banking associations.

By Mr. LUTTRELL, (dem.) of Cal.—To prohibit contracts for servile labor.

Also to let the lands granted for a railroad, from Folsom to Placerville, revert to the United States.

By Mr. Cobb, (rep.) of Kan. (at request)—To incorporate the Colorado Canal Irrigation and Land Company. Company.

By Mr. Cromise, (rep.) of Neb.—Declaring lands granted for railroad purposes liable to State taxa-

tion.

By Mr. Hays, (rep.) of Ala.—To furnish army rations for the relief of destitute persons in the

By Mr. HAYS, (rep.) of Ala.—To furnish army rations for the relief of destitute persons in the South.

By Mr. G. F. Hoar, (rep.) of Mass.—To prevent the payment of interest on national bank deposits. By Mr. Merriam, (rep.) of N. Y.—Restricting the relunding of customs duties.

Also to prevent United States officers from receiving money beyond their fixed salaries.

CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION IMPORTATIONS.

Mr. Beck, (dem.) of Ky., moved to suspend the rules and pass a bill relieving from the payment of duty all articles sent from foreign countries for exhibition at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition.

Mr. Dawrs, (rep.) of Mass., and others suggested that the bill was too loose in its provisions, and Mr. Butler, of Massachusetts, suggested (derisively) to limit the extent of any one person's importation to 500 tons of one article.

Under the new rule adopted last week requiring motions to suspend the rules to be seconded by a majority, the question was put, but there was no second, the vote being 64 to 102.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA EXPENSES.

Mr. POLAND, of Vermont, moved to suspend the rules and adopt a resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to inquire into the legal relations existing between the federal government and the local government of the District of Columbia, and the exact character of their mutual obligations in regard to municipal expenses; and whether some accurately defined basis of expenditures cannot be prescribed and maintained by law.

The rules were suspended, and the resolution

whether some accurately defined basis of expenditures cannot be prescribed and maintained by law.

The rules were suspended, and the resolution adopted—yeas 159, nays 72.

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES.

Mr. COX, (dem.) of N. Y., presented two remonstrances of the hat manufacturers of New York city against any further extension of the Wells patent.

Mr. KILLINGER, (rep.) of Pa., presented the petitions of more than 1,000 workingmen and manufacturers from various parts of Pennsylvania, lavoring the repeat of the ten per cent reduction of duties on imports passed June, 1872. Also petitions instructing the Committee on the District of Columbia to inquire and report whether additional legislation is necessary to secure the comfort and convenience of travellers on the Washington and Georgetown Railroad. Adopted.

Mr. Page, (rep.) of Cal., moved to suspend the rules and pass a bill, which, he said, had received the unanimous approval of the Committee on Public Lands, declaring foriefted to the United States all lands granted by Cobgress in 1866 for a railroad from Folsom to Placerville, Cal. The grant having expired by limitation the rules were suspended and the bill passed.

Mr. Gapfield, Ired.) of Ohio. offered a resolu-

and the bill passed.

TRUASURY DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATIONS.

Mr. GARFIELD, (rep.) of Ohio, offered a resolution authorizing the Committee on Appropriations to insert a section in the Legislative Appropriation oili repealing all laws that authorize permanent and indefinite appropriations to deiray the expenses of the loan and Treasury notes or other paper issues of the United States, and re-

really an eloquent and persuasive document. As it would be impossible to give anything like a synopsis of it in the brief space allotted to this report, suffice it to say that he responded seriatim to all that was embraced under

THREE CLASSES OF COUNTS
or charges. One class he denied in toto, as having no force whatever to hold him amenable to breach of doctrine or discipline. Another class he held did not come under Presbyterian standards, and consequently he was not supposed to be committing error when he took his stand by certain doctrines which the true spirit of Presbyterianism sanctioned. In regard to the third class of charges, while he admitted their application to his formula of belief, he believed they were not antagonistic to PRESBYTERIAN STANDARDS.

The propositions he denies are embraced in the first class of charges, and are as follows:—

That the writings of the so-called apostles of the "Catholic Apostone Church" are a co-ordinate authority with the words of God in the Scripture.

That the sacraments become affected by their own virtue and the virtue of the administrator and the change of the elements in and by consecration.

That the so-called apostles hold supreme au-

and the change of the elements in and by conse-cration.

That the so-called apostles hold supreme au-thority and inspiration and the sacrament of ex-treme unction.

POINTS OF UNCHALLENGED DOCTRINE.

As the following do not come under and are not denounced by Presbyterian standards Mr. Smith held they did not invalidate his ministry in the Presbyterian Church, and were questions for indi-vidual faith and choice:—

Processions, exercises, church of the supernat-ural gifts, jouriold ministry, auricular confession, absolution, bowing at the name of Jesus and the use of the sign of the cross.

absolution, bowing at the name of Jesus and the use of the sign of the cross.

The following, as what he avowed he believed, were not antagonistic to Presbyterian standards:—
Baptism and regeneration, Christ assuming the failen human nature of Adam and the Lord's

fallen human nature of Adam and the Lord's Supper.

THE MAIN FOINT of Mr. Smith's argument was that he was in harmony with the Presoyterian Church, which was in harmony with the polity of the apostles, but what he wanted was the polity of the apostles, but what he wanted was the polity of the apostles, but what he wanted was the polity of the apostles, but what he wanted was the polity of the apostles, but what he wanted was the polity of the apostles he could see no objection to the same church following their methods of thought and teaching.

Argument for prosecution.

The prosecuting counsel did not deem it necessary to cover the wide field of theological inquiry which all the loregoing suggests. They confined themselves to pointing out that the "Catnolic Apostolic Church" being a separate denomination, as its doctrines and practices showed, it could demand no allegiance from a minister of the Presbyterian Church; and the minister who insisted on remaining within the Presbyterian communion while holding the precepts of another denomination not recognized by the standards of Presbyterianism, and also admitting the supreme authority of the so-called apostles in the other denomination, was guilty of schism, and not qualified to retain his place. Nothing was said against the character of Dr. Smith. That, it was admitted, was above reproach; but in reaching out for discoveries in theological science, which the Church had not recognized, they said he which the Church had not recognized, they said he

committed error.

THE VERDICT.

After the room was cleared, and none but the After the room was cleared, and none but the presbyters and counsel remained, a discussion ensued on the merits of the evidence produced against Mr. Smith and the arguments pro and con. A considerable time was spent, and finally it was resolved by a unanimous vote that Mr. E. B. Smith be deposed from his functions as a minister in the Presbyterian Church. The reverend gentleman had previously proclaimed his intention to appeal to the Synod.

THE ESTHETIC IN RELIGION.

The Fine Arts—Their Nature, Necessities Effects and Relation to Christianity-Essay by Rev. George Lansing Taylo Before the Methodist Preachers.

The ordinary routine of discussion of religious opics by the Methodist preachers at their weekly meetings was varied vesterday by an elaborate and very meritorious essay on fine art in its re-lation to religion, delivered by Rev. George Lansing Taylor, of Hempstead. Mr. Taylor is a man of pure æsthetic tastes, high literary culture and poet of no mean order. He had been previously requested to prepare an essay for the meeting. and that which he read yesterday was one that probably not a half dozen of his brethren could analyze or justly criticise. He be-gan by defining what he meant by fine art. Without the æsthetic, he thought, we could have no true conception of God, who is purely and sublimely methetical, as is shown by His creation of man and placing him in the most beautiful landscape garden in the universe, planted by the Almighty hand. Deprived of the æsthetical faculty, we are deprived also of appreciating God in the highest and truest æsthetical sense, in which sense He is the chiefest among ten thousand and altogether lovely. Mr. Taylor here named what is included in fine art—poetry, music, painting, sculp-

altogether lovely. Mr. Taylor here named what is included in fine art—poetry, music, painting, sculpture, &c. He referred to what art had done for mankind, and remarked that what it cannot tell the historian and the critic may despair of. Mr. Taylor traced the progress of fine art from prehistoric times through patriarchal and modern times, and enumerated works of art in painting, sculpture, architecture, &c., which stand to-day as MONUMENTS OF THE PAST AGES and inspirations for the present and the future. Its universality is shown by its monuments, which have been found or which exist in all parts of the world, from Mexico to India and from iceland to South America. Mr. Taylor dwelt extensively on Egyptian, Persian, Greek and Roman art. The latter, he remarked, added little to what the Greeks had given to the world. Mahometan art is incapable of being reproduced. It is the most romantic the world has ever seen. Speaking of music and architecture, and their relation to religion, he remarked that Christian art created music. The oratorio is as much the product of Christian thought as is the cathedral in which it is read or sung. Christian art waked the anthem of redemption, and with it the highest forms of resthetic art. Mr. Taylor, showed by comparison how art among Greeks, Romans, &c., was localized, while Christian art is universalized. This was apparent by putting the names of Homer, Virgil, Plato, &c., beside those of Shakespeare, Milton, Wesley, &c. These latter will still rule the world after the name of England is forgotten. Mr. Taylor passed on to the value of pointing, and cited Tweed's dread of the influence of the pictorial caricatures against him as being more damaging than anything that the press could have written against him; for the man who could act read an editorial could read the story in the caricature. On the value of art in maghanic life how valuable, he suggested, to shipbuilders to-day would be

would be
A COPY OF NOAH'S ARK,
and how much men would give for it! How valuable also to architects would be a painting of the
Tower of Babel or Solomon's Temple! He did no

prior of those formerly acting with the party, and some of these dars the hidden treasured port of those formerly acting with the party, and some of these dars the hidden treasured port of those formerly acting with the party, and some of these dars the hidden treasured port of those formerly acting with the party, and some of the seal little with the seal and some of the seal little with the seal and some of the seal seal seal seal and the seal and seal and

PIGEON SHOUTING.

A Good Day's Sport at Deerfoot Park-Match Between Humphrey Hartshorne and Edward Charmon, of Brooklyn-Hartshorne the Winner-Two Interesting Sweepstakes.

There was rare sport for the pigeon shooting fraternity at Decrioot Park yesterday afternoon, as a match between old Brooklynites and two sweepstakes were decided. Eirst on the list was the contest between Mr. Humphrey Hartshorne and Mr. Edward Charmon, friends of more than twenty five years' standing, and, having "handled guns together from the time they were young men until the present period, the interest in the event was something more than is ordinarily observed, and hence the spectators that congregated at the place of shooting were intimate with one or the other of the principals, and the excitement, in an agreeable way, ran high on both sides. The agreement between these gentlemen was that they should each shoot at twenty-five birds, Long Island rules to govern, 21 yards rise, 80 yards boundary and 14 oz. shot. The sum of \$100 a side was posted, and minor bets regarding the number that each would kill consecutively were made, which naturally intensified the interest. As each was to "find, trap, and handle" for the other, the principals used extraordinary efforts to obtain lively and strong birds, and it is but fair to say that these efforts were crowned with success, as the pigeons were among the best seen this winter.

Mr. Hartshorne selected Mr. Walton as his judge,

and Mr. Charmon picked Mr. Wingate to look after his interests in a similar capacity; while Mr. Robert Robinson accepted the position of referee. Mr. Edward Madison loaded for Mr. Hartshorne, and Mr. M. Warren Erdseye for his opponent. At the fifth bird Charmon led Hartshorne one bird; at the tenth the latter led his adversary one bird; at the tenth the latter led his adversary one bird; at the twentieth they stood—Hartshorne, 12; Charmon, 10. Then the betting became very spirited, with Hartshorne the lavorite; but Charmon killing all his birds from that point and Hartshorne missing two, they stood even on the twenty-fith, having each scored fifteen. The tie being shot off, three birds each, Hartshorne killed the first and second, while Charmon missed the first, when the former was declared the winner, amid much hilarity. The birds were of a superior class, and the "chaff" between the contestants of a nature to provoke considerable merriment.

Following the match were two sweepstakes, each having line entries. The conditions were three birds each. \$6 entrance, Long Island rules to Mr. Edward Madison loaded for Mr. Hartshorne

three birds each, \$5 entrance, Long Island rules to

A LECTURE TO LADIES. An audience, composed of between 300 and 400

ladies, assembled in the chapel of the Church of the Strangers yesterday afternoon, to listen to a lecture given by Mrs. Susan Everett, M. D., of Portland, Me., who desires to tell the New York ladies how to eat, sleep and live. The lady is a very pleasant spoken M. D., with dark hazel eyes, very white teeth and a profusion of dark hair. She was dressed in a rich black moiré silk, devoid of overskirt, but with pienty of soft lace at the wrists and throat. She claimed that women need not be sick. She believed that God intended we should live long and be happy, and said that if women lived as they should live—ate, drank and slept as they ought and might—a greater and better race of humanity might be given to the world, as the mother stamped intellectuality and moral worth upon the unborn infant. She believes in increase of population, and assured the women that they only did their duty in adding to the statistics of the city. She alluded to the fact of some diseases having increased jourioid, among which she classed paralysis, cpliepsy and so on. A Quaker lady in the andience looked up from beneath her modest bonnet with inquiring eyes and a salf-asuaded air when the speaker dewomen lived as they should live-ate, drank and

nounced corsets as an abomination and told of the weakness of the New England women of to-day in not being able to nurse their children. She also believed that Christianity and morality were conductive to health, and closed by giving notice of a series of four lectures, wherein she snould dis-play her "mannikin" and "skeleton," with sugges-tive hints and instruction such as she deemed her audience might need. At the close of the speak-er's remarks the dollars were handed up to the lady freely and tickets given in return.

BRET HARTE ON "AMERICAN HUMOR."

Bret Harte delivered his lecture on "American Humor" last evening in Association Hall, it being one of a course of lectures given under the aus pices of the Mercantile Library Association. The hall was well filled by an intelligent and appreciative audience. Charles S. Arthur presided, and introduced the lecturer to the audience. Among those on the platform were Wilson G. Hunt, William Remsen, James Boorman Johnston, S. R. Comstock, Alderman M. C. Ely and other prominent

If there is anything in the world of humor that is intensely sui generis it is what is technically termed "American Humor." It has no counterpart in any other quarter of the globe. It is indigenous to our soil. Its boisterous phase springs literally out of the wilderness-from the back-

woods of the West, rather than from the more

refined and cultivated circles of the East. To the

latter are we indebted for the more genial phase of American humor—the merry lines of Oliver Wendell Homes, for example, or the once pithy, pungent and spicy newspaper paragraphs of Colonel Green, of the Boston Post, who with the late George D. Prentice, of the Louisville Journal, was one of the fathers of the sparkling phase of American journalism—little gems of wit and satire, encased, as it were, in settings of kindliness and common sense. While in the West the broadest humor is encouraged, in the East, outside of certain charming circles, it is dangerous to be funny. Plainly speaking, there is more blarney than humor in the Plymouth Rock of New England, which has been not inaptly termed the "biarney stone of America." To go back a couple of centuries, some people might think there was some-thing excruciatingly funny-torturing a joke at the stake, as it were-in the treatment of the Quakers stake, as it were—in the treatment of the Quakers and witches by the early Puritans. But the run of the thing, if any, was all on one side—the poor victims could not realize exactly "where the laugh came in." Besides, the treatment of these unfortunate creatures was not purely a stroke of American humor. The idea was borrowed from abroad—from England—Smithfield, perhaps—just as we nowadays import the London Funch or Judy or Fun, or any other of the so-called funny papers of the British metropolis. But, passing from this unpleasant theme of an unpleasant era, we come to the epoch when American humor is a recognized feature in all genial and social cote ies, when such humorists as Mark Twain, Ariemus Ward, Josh. Billings, Petroleum V. Nasby and many others of less note but of equally lofty aspirations for positions in the temple of Comus, nave brought into its present shape the fabric of American-humor, much of it being quarried from the rough in the primevai funny lormations of the West.

Mr. Harte commenced by asking if there was such a thing as American humor. He then proceeded to mention the different English wits of the last and present century and compared them with those of America. He affirms that the fashion of true humor never changes—merely conforms to the age and condition of a people. The first efforts of American humor were in the Yankee dialect, the efforts of an Englishman, Judge Halburton, author of "Sam Slick," Slavery in the South was the means of much national humor and pathos. The disciples of burnt cork and Foster's melodies, "Old Folks at length on the productions of Lowell, Orpheus C. Kerr, the Danbury News man, Petroleum V. Nasby, Artemus Ward (ol whom he said that he was accepted in England as a representative of the American illiterate aborigmes), of Washmitton irving, Cooper, Colonel Thorpe, of Texas; Sut Lovengood (whose humor ran over in practical jokes), Judge Balowin, of Alabama. He referred to the case of John Phenix, of the San Diego Herald, who, being left in charge of the paper and witches by the early Puritans. But the run of the thing, if any, was all on one side-

RAPID TRANSIT.

An Approval of and Add tion to Mr. Minton's Plan.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:-My letter to you of the 21st was despatched before I was aware of the invitation extended in your issue of the 20th. The practical merits of my plan and its obvious admirable adaptability to the pressing want of your citizens cause me to regret that it should have been forwarded just at a time when it appears only as one among a multitude, thereby not engaging the attention it might otherwise have received; still if merits e ist they will undoubtedly be noticed. Since reading the proposition of Mr. Church I am more lorcibly impressed than before with the conviction that the elevated road-no matter how ingeniously contrived to be a sort of multum in parro—should not be thought of. It is out of all reason to assume that a screeching engine, with its long train of cars, can be run at a comparatively slight ele-vation over a densely thronged street, at any

can be run at a comparatively slight elevation over a densely thronged street, at any such speed as the people require, without causing numerous accidents; moreover, it would destroy the appearance of any street, no matter how ornamental it might be made. In a few years the public would gladly pay a large amount to have the whole thing removed from the street. Besides accidents will occur in spite of all precautions on the railway itself, and imagination can hardly picture the effect of a train plunging off the track into the multitude below, to say nothing of the predicament of its own passengers.

Mr. Minton's idea is excellent, inasmuch as his road would be out of sight, only I would go a little further, so that in place of having the top of the engine smokestack six leet above the streets, as he has, sink the whole concern six or eight feet lower than he proposes, and thereby avoid all injury to buildings and occupation of private property, save our 200 bridges, save raising all the cross streets, avoid all nuise, and save eighty-live per cent of actual cost upon his estimate, giving a road fully as convenient to the passenger, at, of course, a lower fare, the last but probably most popular consideration of them all.

In a densely populated city no elevated railroad in full view can be built that will not be a public nuisance, if a high speed is called for; and if a high speed is not called for, stick to the old horse railroad or extend the plaything now existing in Greenwich street.

I shall read with the greatest interest any further communications on this momentous subject, but will not trespass on your good nature again in the shape of a letter.

G. R. NASH, Civil Engineer.

NORTH ADAMS, Mass., Jan. 26, 1874.

Avenue Railroads.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD :-

The undersigned, a constant observer of all the various theories and different plans for rapid transit advanced by the numerous publications for the last several years, has, from a personal examination of several architectural designs for elevated railways, cable transit companies, &c., &c., formed an opinion from all these various sources, that the only safe, economical and popular mode of such a transit would be to devote one avenue on each side of the city for a double track to be sunk eight feet below the surface, and bridged at every cross street. A double track could be made to occupy only about 22 to 25 feet in width of the street, and, as stated, eight feet in depth, walled on each side with a handsome railing three or four teet in height. This mode would leave enough room for a carriage way on each side of the track, and a bridge over each cross street of the full width of the street, without any elevation, could not inconvenience traffic and could be made to have a very handsome appearance. As a station would be necessary at every three or four blocks, it would, no doubt, increase the value of property on such a thoroughfare by diverting so much notice and consequently trade. So much am I convinced that such an enterprise would proved mancially a great success that I am willing to invest \$100,000 to help it being constructed provided a suitable charter can be procured. If any one can advance any objections to this plan I should be pleased to know what the objections are. to be sunk eight feet below the surface, and bridged

MILITARY NOTES.

A general court martial will convene at the 'Rendezvous," Nos. 7, 9 and 11 West Thirteenth street, at eight o'clock P. M., on Thursday, Feb. ruary 5, 1874, or as soon thereafter as possible, for the trial of colonel Andrew Staut, Ninety-sixth regiment, Second brigade, First division, N. G. S N. Y., and such other officers as may be brough